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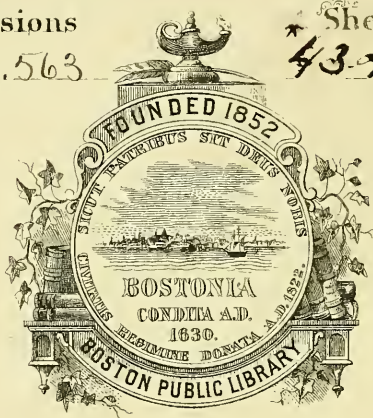
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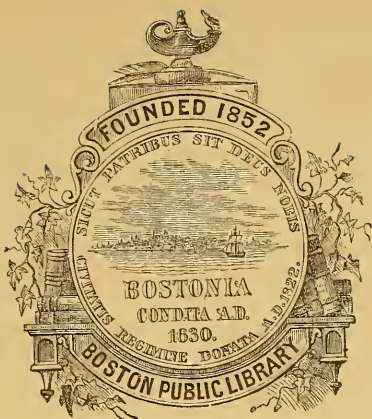






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PAMPHLETS.

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*Military  
biography.*





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A

Citizen-soldier's Record  
Biographical sketch  
and  
Military Record  
of  
Lieut-col. Guy Kulett Watkins,  
of the  
141st Reg't Penna. Vols.  
By  
Henry Ward.

Cut from the  
Bradford Reporter

Towanda, Pa., Jan. 24, 31, 1884.



# Bradford Reporter.

Towanda, Pa., Jan. 24, 1834.

## A Citizen-Soldier's Record.

Biographical Sketch and Military Record of Lieutenant-Colonel Guy Hulett Watkins, of the One Hundred and Forty-First Regiment, Penna. Volunteers.

### EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION.

The family of Guy Hulett Watkins came to the newly established county seat of Bradford, in the year 1828, from the town of Reading in Vermont. His father, William Watkins, had been admitted to the bar three years before, and was 26 years old when he took up his residence in this place. He died on the 12th of September 1877, after nearly fifty years' residence here, during which he maintained the almost unbroken practice of his profession—surviving the subject of this sketch more than thirteen years and leaving a widow, five years his junior, who died.

The marriage of Almira Hulett and William Watkins took place the year of the removal to Towanda at Rutland, Vermont. Four children were born of this alliance after their removal to this place: Mrs. H. L. Lamoreux, Lieut. Col. Watkins, Mrs. Mary Davies, and W. H. Watkins now of Oregon.

Guy H. Watkins was born in this borough on the 19th day of March 1831. His education was obtained mainly in the schools of the vicinage. Among the earliest of these the older residents of the town will remember those of Mrs. Graves, who taught at the school house then standing between the Methodist church and the present residence of Mr Woodburn; Thos. Slack who taught in the "old canal office" on Main street near the site of Benders building, and for a time at the old Academy on Fourth street, the residence of Gen. H. J. Madill,

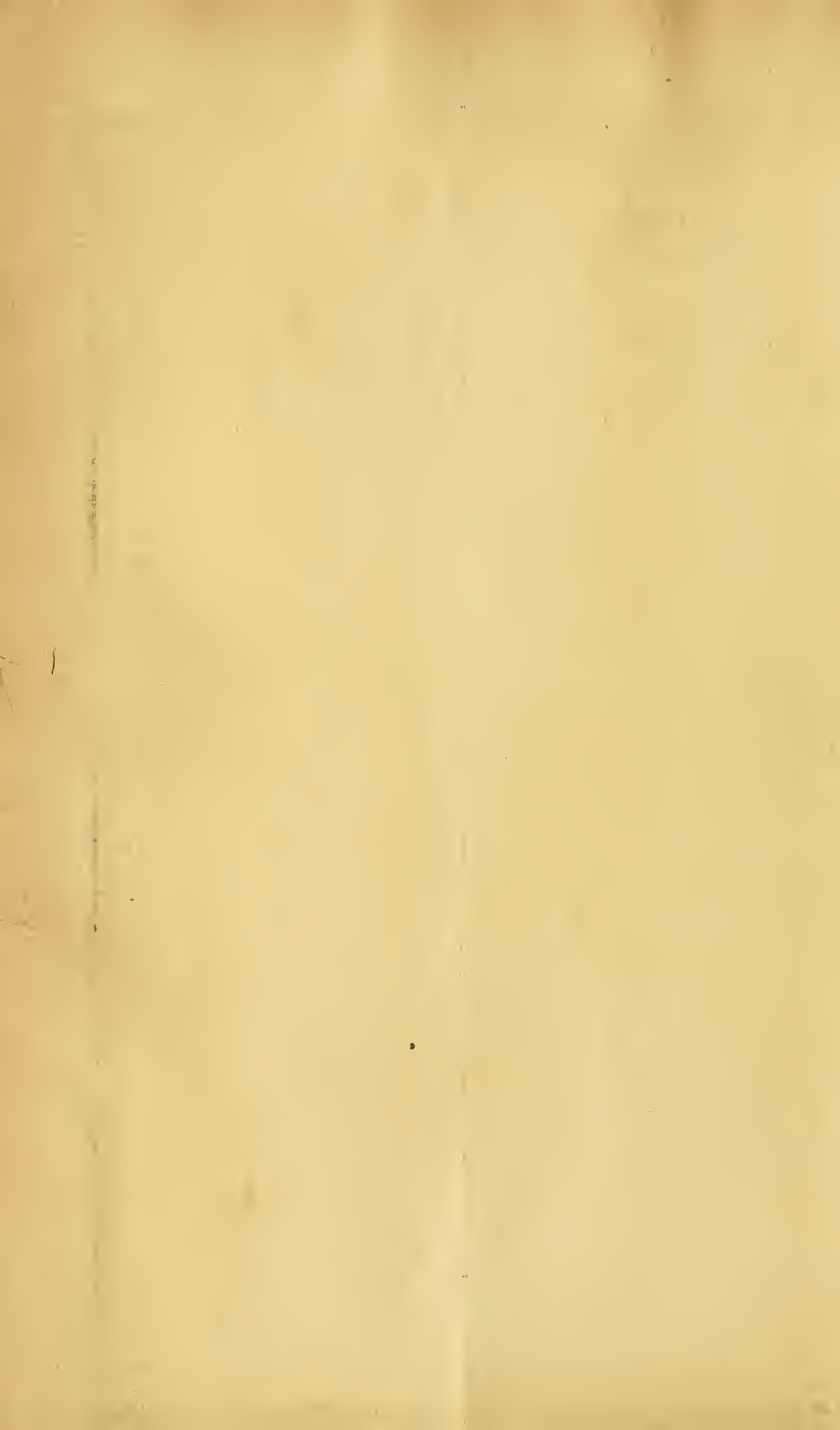
built in 1836; Miss Leavenworth at the corner of Weston and Water streets; Jackson Vandercook, who taught in the Academy; Charles Nash, assisted by Col Allen Fuller at the Academy; Frederick W. Gunn, afterwards of the famous "Gunnery" of Washington, Conn., assisted by the present United States Senator from that State O. S. Pratt. From this latter school Col. Watkins entered the Methodist institution of Lima, Livingston county, New York, and there completed his educational curriculum.

Those of us who remember Guy Watkins as a school boy (some years his junior,) have a lively recollection of his being by common consent always a leader. It was Guy who edited and for the most part wrote the hebdomadal school periodical; Guy who led his side in politics; Guy who was foremost in all the practical jokes and youthful sports of that happy period. We looked upon him—we younger ones—as a natural-born leader; and so he proved himself. He had a healthy, active intellect, not altogether wanting in a certain native ingenuity, and certainly not in a strong sense of the ludicrous—with something more, too, of the really sentimental and imaginative than his robust humor was wont to admit; with a much more serious turn than casual acquaintance would discover. I have a vague impression that he was proficient in his studies: anyhow I know the teachers in my day looked upon Guy as a head man, and the fellows always thought him, *facile princeps*, a "boss" boy in every way.

As a touch of the deeper sense of his nature, the *suspira de profundis*, which came to him anon, there is preserved the following letter from one of the very great men of that day, Henry Clay—an answer to one addressed to him by the young students from Lima, the tenor of which we can easily supply. Guy was always a great Whig at school; and this is the letter that he got:

ASHLAND, 29th of Nov. 1850.

DEAR SIR: I received your letter of the 23d ultimo and the friendly sentiments towards me which it conveys entitle you to an acknowledge-





ment of its receipt brief though it be. You inform me that you are young and just commencing the career of life and that you feel desirous to attain eminence and distinction. By perseverance, indefatigable industry, the avoidance of all idle and dissipated habits, and indomitable courage, you may reach the distinction of which you are ambitious. That you may do so, be an ornament to your country, and prosperous and happy is the cordial wish of your friend and obedient servant Mr. Guy H. Watkins. H. CLAY.

The writer well remembers being shown this letter by the recipient a year or two after he got it, and something whispers that the party to whom it was addressed seemed to take the advice it contains very seriously to heart.

After completing his law studies in the office of his father Col. Watkins was admitted to the bar of Bradford Co., Sept. 9, 1853. Two years afterwards he married Maria A. daughter of Col. G. F. Mason, of this place. Three children were born of this union—two of whom (Mary Irene, and Guy Mason) survive; an elder daughter died in infancy. After remaining for a time in the law office of his father and preceptor, Col. Watkins became law partner of David Wilmot. Varying for a time his professional pursuits with the banking business in the firm of Laporte, Mason & Co., he was chosen in 1859 District Attorney for the county. At this period there was no man of his years of brighter prospects than his: the way seemed open to him for distinction in professional and preferment in public life.

Before, however, his term of office had expired, in the summer of 1862, came Lincoln's second call for troops. Col. Watkins at once interested himself in raising a regiment to respond. A letter which appeared in one of the county papers, soon after his death, shows in what spirit he engaged in this work, and is especially significant of the subsequent fidelity with which he clung to his comrades-in-arms after the regiment then raised entered the service, in the field.

"On hearing," the writer says, "that Lieut. Col. Watkins was killed

while leading a storming party against the rebel works at Petersburg, I was forcibly reminded of a speech he delivered at a meeting held in a church in Terrytown, in Aug. 1862 for the purpose of inducing young men to enlist. He said: 'I never had the conscience to ask any man to go to war until I was prepared to go myself. Boys I am going. A man has to die but once, and I had as lief die on the field of battle fighting for my country in a just cause as die at home in my bed.' This letter is dated Sugar Run, June, 1864—nine days after Col. Watkins was killed—and signed by Mr. J. W. Ingham."

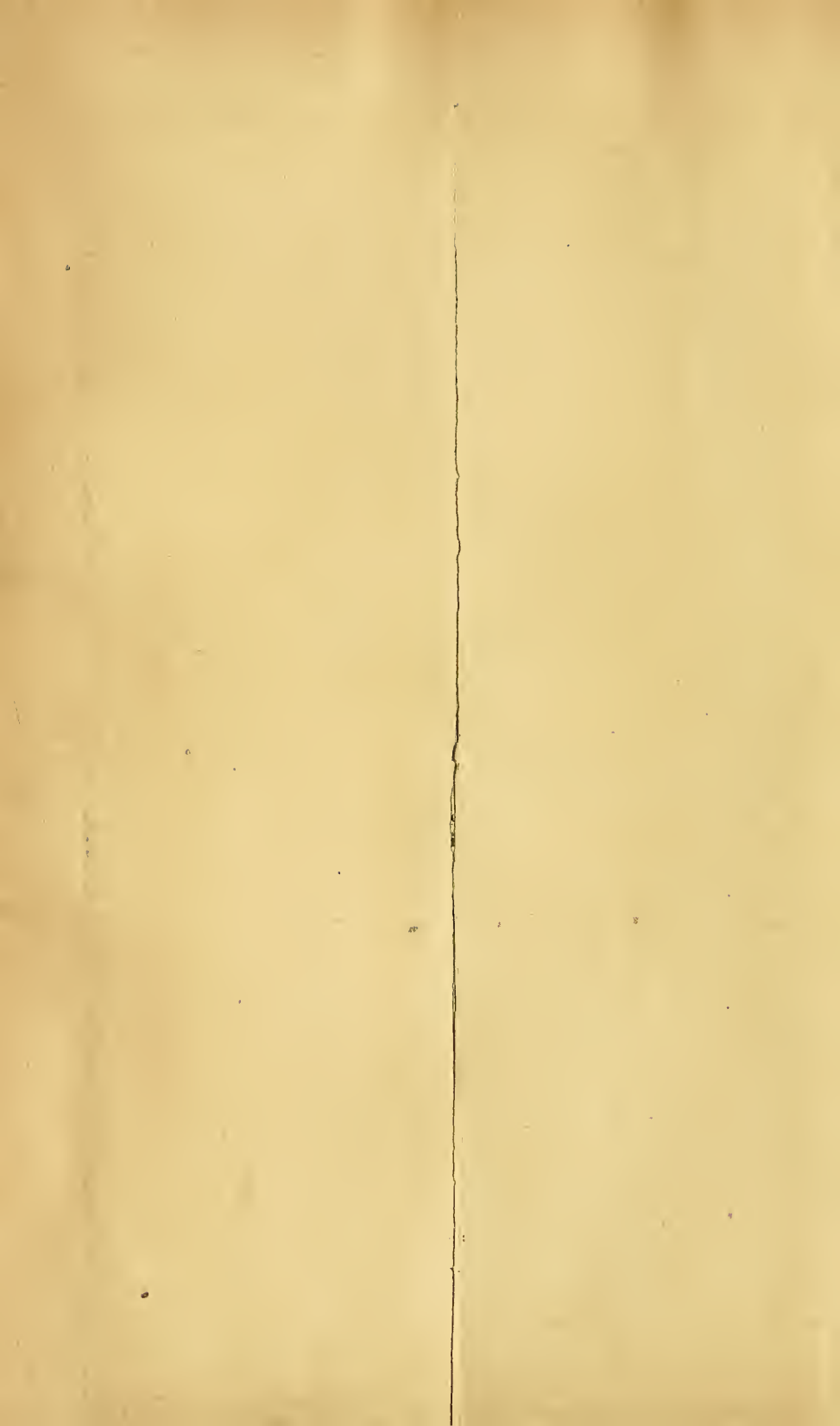
#### THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIRST —ITS FORMATION AND ENTRY INTO THE SERVICE.

This regiment was made up in the month of July and August 1862, and was composed of seven companies from Bradford Co., two from Susquehanna and one from Wayne; was enrolled Aug. 13, 1862, and mustered into the service at Harrisburg August 29th. On the following day it reached Washington. Owing to the second battle of Bull Run, the regimental organization, completed at Harrisburg, gave the Colonelcy to Gen. H. J. Madill of this county, with Lieut. Col. Guy H. Watkins second command, and Israel P. Spaulding of Bradford, Major.

The regiment in camp on the south side of the Potomac near Washington until the fall of 1862, it made a faced march in Robinson's brigade, to Poolsville to intercept Stuart's crossing the Potomac at White's Ford. Arriving just as Stuart's force was seen passing out of sight over the neighboring hills on the south side of the river, too late to accomplish the purpose of its march, the regiment with the brigade, went into camp near Leesburg.

#### JOIN THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC— FREDRICKSBURG—UNDER FIRE.

In November 1862, the One Hundred and Forty-First Regiment joined the Army of the Potomac at Fredericksburg. It was attached to Stoneman's Third Corps; Maj. Gen. D. B. Birney's, first division; Brig-



adier Gen. Robinson's, first brigade; and was placed in the Centre Grand Division, commanded by Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker. During the last days of November and first days of December, the regiment remained in winter quarters on the Rappahannock near Falmouth, opposite Fredericksburg.

On the 13th of December 1862 the assault on Confederate works was made—the battle of Fredericksburg began. Hooker's Grand Division was partly held in reserve to support the attacking column of Sumner; but for the most part it was broken up and sent to support Franklin's attack on the Confederate right. Of this latter portion Birney's and Sickler's divisions formed a part. These two divisions were sent to the north side of the Rappahannock near Franklin's bridges on the day (the 12th,) previous to the attack by the left wing under Franklin, and remained there during the night. After Meade's repulse from Lee's right, part of Birney's division crossed the Rappahannock at Franklin's lower bridge and came upon the field at 11:30, A. M.

The Pennsylvania Reserves under Meade having carried the heights in front of Franklin, the third brigade of Birney's division, Birney's was ordered across the river to their support. Shortly afterwards, Robinson's brigade was also ordered across. This movement it executed at the double quick, obliquing nearly a mile to the left of the point where it crossed. The reserves and the third brigade not having been properly supported were forced to retire, and the Confederate forces under Jackson made a counter charge. The first brigade came into position in time to repel the charge and save Randolph's battery which was about falling into the enemy's hands.

Palmer's account (Antietam and Fredericksburg) of this feature of this engagement says: "Birney's division had reached the field at about 11 A. M. and when Meade's division was hard pressed it had been used to support him, to help to cover his retreat, and take his place in the general line. It had done some sharp and good fighting, and many

the regiments had lost a third of its effective force. The whole division had lost upward of a thousand men. The corps commander (Donnerman) claimed for this division the credit of having first checked and then driven back the Confederate troops, who yelling were in hot pursuit of the two exhausted and reeling divisions of Meade and Ginn," and of having "saved all their men which had been entirely abandoned by their supports; Doubleday's division from being cut off and taken in reverse; the left of Smith's corps, which had not been engaged from being turned and possibly it is probably, the whole left wing from disaster."

On the 14th, after Burnside's repulse, the 141st occupied the front line (on the south side of the river) having meanwhile been employed in burying the dead under a flag of truce. On the 15th the regiment returned to its quarter near Falmouth. On the 20th, Robinson's brigade was engaged in laying the pontoons preparatory to Burnside's second advance at Banker's Ford. It participated with the rest of the army in Burnside's "mad march" which preceded the failure of his second demonstration against Richmond; and upon the accession of Hooker to the command of the Army of the Potomac, the regiment was placed in Gen. C. K. Graham's brigade, Birney's division, Sickles' Third corps.

#### CHANCELLORSVILLE.

On the 27th of April a forward movement of the army towards Chancellorsville began. The army crossed the Rappahannock on the 30th of April, and took up its position at Chancellorsville. The 141st regiment had been left with the Third Corps at Falmouth under Sedgwick. On the 27th the 3d Corps moved from camp and took up a position down the river about two miles below Fredericksburg. On the 29th it crossed the Rappahannock on pontoons. After this demonstration on the Confederate right—part of Hooker's plan—Sedgwick was ordered to remain at Falmouth with the First and Sixth, and Sickles with the Third





Corps was ordered to join Hooker's main body at Chancellorsville by the way of United States Ford, at which point he arrived on the first of May 3d.

On the 1st of May the army of the Potomac was drawn up and fortified its position at Chancellorsville, Birney's division being held in reserve. The Confederate forces were in Hooker's front, having advanced from Fredericksburg to meet the attempt of Hooker to turn that position. On the evening of the first of May, the Confederates opened with a battery on the front and right of the Chancellor House. Grahame's brigade was sent to support a Union battery near a house on the right of the Chancellor House. At this house were Hooker, Sickles and Birney with their respective staffs. The fire from the Confederate battery was so hot that the brigade was ordered to retire behind a knoll in the rear of their position to screen them from the fire. As Col. Watkins was in the act of mounting his horse to carry out this order a shot from the enemy's battery struck the horse near the shoulder and passed completely through him.

On the second of May, Jackson's famous flank movement began. "On this day trains and ambulances were seen passing over the hill on Sickles's front. When informed of the movement of Jackson, Hooker sent orders to the officers commanding the right to be on their guard against an advance of the enemy on their flank and directed them to strengthen that portion of their line to meet such an emergency. Birney reported to Sickles that he saw in the direction of the "Furnace" a Confederate column as it marched down the hill and crossed Lewis's Creek. Sickles went forward and satisfied himself of the truth of the report. He saw the trains of artillery, wagons and ambulances which followed Jackson's rear; but concluded that the Confederates were in full retreat. A battery was pushed forward and the moving column was shelled at a distance. As soon as it disappeared it was believed that the movement, whether of attack or retreat, had been abandoned.

It soon again re-appeared; and Sickles was ordered to push forward two divisions to develop the strength or intentions of the enemy. This force, which consisted of the divisions of Birney, and Whipple, with Barlow's brigade of Howard's corps, soon came up with the enemy. A sharp skirmish ensued, and by the aid of Randolph's battery, some four hundred men, including several officers of the twenty-third Georgia regiment were captured." The corps was found to be Jackson's corps. "Sickles therefore pressed forward with fresh energy and with a view of intercepting the train in Jackson's rear."

Sickles's attack was checked by the Confederate artillery, and the return of certain Confederate brigades to the menaced point. Jackson's train was saved, and Jackson's movement to the flank and rear of Hooker's main body continued, Sickles meanwhile holding the road near the "Furnace"—"preparing to follow Jackson." Jackson at length struck "the right wing of the Army of the Potomac, was doubled up like a scroll, completely routed and driven back on Chancellorsville. Jackson was within half a mile of Hooker's headquarters on his flank."

Sickles at once hurried forward Pleasanton and Birney. Pleasanton succeeded in temporarily delaying Jackson's pursuit of Howard's right wing. An artillery duel between the opposing forces ensued. It was nightfall, Jackson held the advanced position he had gained on the old turnpike and plank roads. Berry kept the ground he had taken towards the close of the evening's contest. His artillery under Best crowned the crest of the western end of the clearing around Chancellorsville. Birney had come up and taken position on the left.

On the morning of the second, on the discovery of Jackson's movement, Birney was ordered to the right to support the 11th (Howard's) corps. Birney remained for a time with Howard, but the support having been deemed unnecessary, the division returned to the point of departure near the Chancellor House early in the afternoon.



At eleven o'clock P. M., Ward's brigade of Birney's division was ordered to attack the Confederate forces. In conjunction with the artillery under Best the attack was made with great fury; again and again repulsed, but finally succeeded in driving the enemy half a mile and recapturing some of the artillery lost by Howard in the morning. (At the commencement of Ward's night attack Stonewall Jackson was killed while reconnoitering the position of the Union forces, by a volley from his own men).

During the night the National commander succeeded in re-arranging his lines and taking a new position. The line was formed somewhat in the shape of the letter V, "the left leg considerably larger than the right;" and both extremities reaching close to the river, this covering the United States Ford. "He held possession of the heights between Melz, Chancellor's and Fairview—including Hazel Grove—an eminence which commanded the apex, and the holding of which was essential to the safety of the new position.

Sickles' forces commanded the line on the left of the apex covering the turnpike. Birney with Williams's of Slocum's corps in his rear on the south side. In front of Sickles were the Confederate forces of Archer and McGowan.

The position of Sickles was a commanding one at Hazel Grove. This was the key of the battle ground, and Sickles felt great satisfaction in having seized and occupied it. Such was the situation of Sickles's corps on Sunday, the 3d of May, when he received orders from Hooker just before daylight to abandon the positions; and while in the act of doing this his rear became engaged with Stuart, who immediately seized the abandoned position, and got in position thirty pieces of artillery.

The battle of the 3d of May opened. "Sickles was on hand with his well-brained and war-hardened veterans—Berry on his right, Birney on the left—Whipple and Williams supporting, ready to receive the Confederate attack."

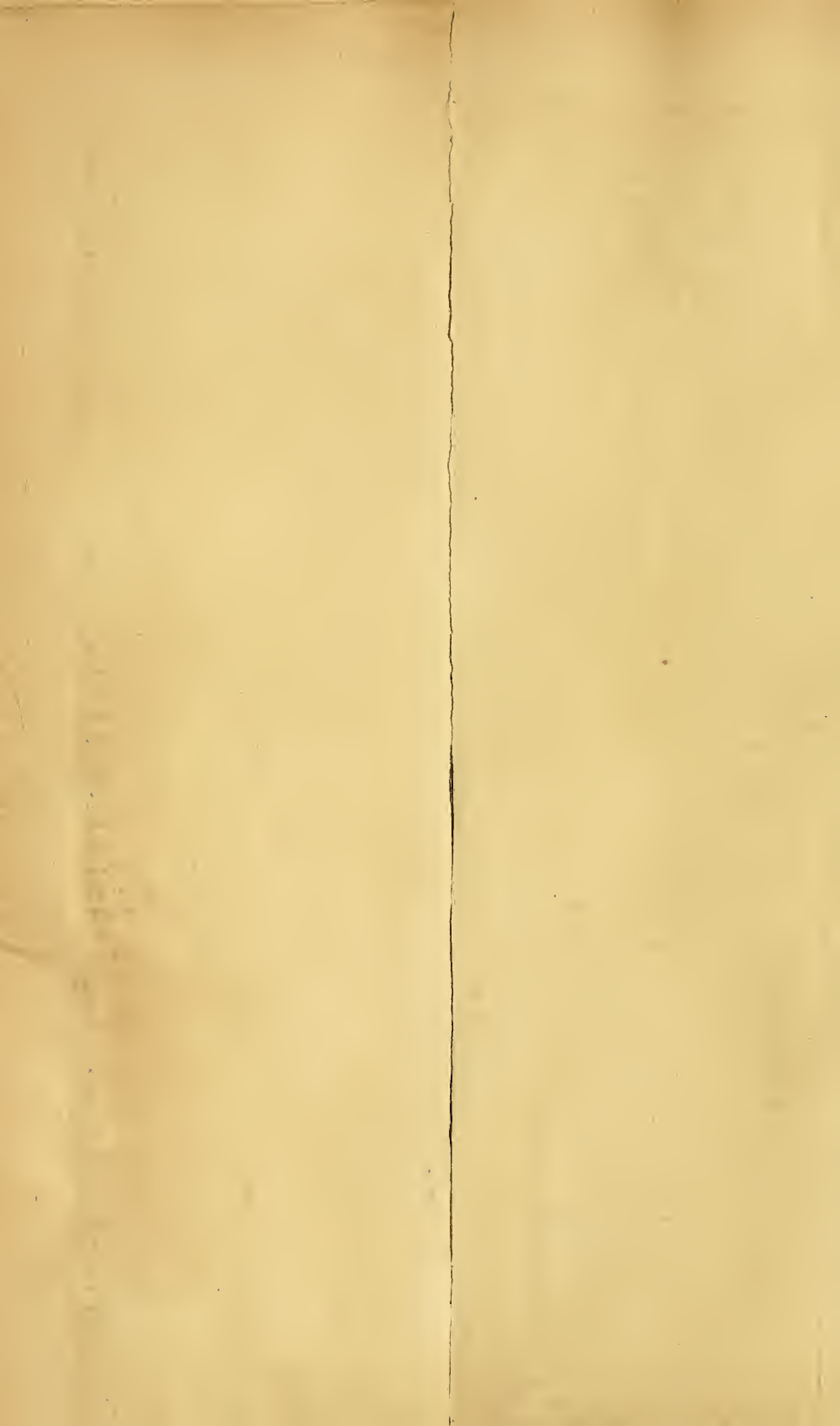
The 141st regiment held a position on the left of Robinson's brigade, near a log house about three-quarters of a mile to the left of the Chancellor House. About daylight, on the morning of the 3d, the Confederate forces charged the positions held by the brigade. About this time Hooker's order to Sickles to abandon the position he held was received; and the brigade was ordered to retire from its position to a point near the Chancellor House. Before this movement could be executed, the Confederate forces attacked the 141st on the front and rear, and on the left flank in such close quarters that a number of the men were captured before they could move out of the positions which the regiments held—the loss in killed and wounded being also very large. On this attack Captain Benjamin M. Peck was wounded, while executing the order for the retreat.

A description of this engagement taken from a printed volume at hand says:

"As the Confederates came forward they were received with a perfect tempest of lead which burst tornado-like from the firm lines of Berry and Birney, and also Whipple and Williams who had already pushed to the front. No such bravery in assault had been exhibited by the Confederates since the famous battle of Corinth, when they advanced against a storm of bullets "with faces averted, like men striving to protect themselves from a driving storm of lead."

Charge and counter-charge follow. The charge of Birney and Berry are described as impetuous to desperation. At length Stuart massing his troops falls upon Sickles with his entire weight and with undivided strength, "Berry's Division, formerly Hooker's own had sustained its high character. The men fought like heroes. Also same is true of Birney's Division."

Sickles is forced to return under the guns at Fairview. On Monday the 4th, Sedgwick is driven from Mary's Hill which he had taken the previous day, and re-crossed the river in the night. On the night of the 5th, Hooker re-crossed the river at Chancellorsville in a violent rain





storm, and disappeared from Lee's front; and the battle of Chancellorsville was over and with it the fighting of the Third Corps.

LOSSES IN THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIRST—COL. WATKINS WOUNDED AND A PRISONER.

We have traced, in outline, the operations of Birney's Division and Sickles's Corps during this engagement to which the 141st Regiment was attached. The losses in this regiment are given in Bates's history as follows: "Of four hundred and nineteen officers and men who had entered the battle, two hundred and ninety-four were either killed or wounded—the loss being mainly in the desperate charge of the 3d." Captain B. M. Peck, Abram. S. Swart, James L. Mumford, E. A. Spaulding, and Lieutenant Ball Logan, O. Tyler, and Hurst were among the wounded. Lieutenant Col. Watkins was severely wounded, and fell into the hands of the enemy."

"For its bravery and discipline exhibited on the memorable 3d of May the regiment was warmly congratulated by both Generals, Birney and Graham."

"At this fight," a personal account obtained by the writer relates, as the regiment was moving at the double quick on the charge of the 3d of May, in close column, as the Colonel commanding gave the order to deploy in line of battle, a shell struck in front of Lieut. Col. Watkins's horse. The horse he was riding was a small white animal christened by the regiment the "little sheep." Everybody who saw the circumstances supposed both rider and animal to be killed; both went into the air. The regiment passed on and went into a piece of woods. Presently, we were astonished to see Lieutenant Col. Watkins re-appear unharmed and mounted on the "little sheep."

"At this juncture" the narrator continues, "we were under a terrific fire. Col. Watkins dismounted; tied his horse to a tree, and shortly afterwards was shot with a minie ball. The ball entering the upper part of the left lung, coming out under the shoulder blade—through and through. The Col. commanding sent the

wounded man to the rear—to a white house in the rear of the field of battle, where he remained until the regiment was driven back; and Lieutenant Col. Watkins fell in the enemy's hands.

His captors were about proceeding to strip him of his boots and valuables when a Sergeant observed a small circular pin worn by Col. Watkins on the lapel of his vest. Seeing this the Sergeant brought up the Lieutenant of his company, who sent the wounded man to Longstreet's headquarters, where he remained for two weeks attended by the chief surgeon of Longstreet's Corps, was then paroled, and sent by Gen. Meade to Washington; from thence he returned home.

During Lieutenant Col. Watkins's absence the 141st on the 11th of June entered upon the Gettysburg campaign. Of its losses at this fight Bates's history says: "At morning roll call one hundred and ninety-six men answered. Of this number one hundred and thirty-six were either killed or wounded—a loss of 70 per cent."

About the last of June, Capt. B. M. Peck states that Lieutenant Col. Watkins, Capt. E. A. Spaulding and himself—all of whom had been wounded at Chancellorsville fight—started to return to the regiment. On reaching Harrisburg it was found that the Confederates had got possession of the direct route to Baltimore, the Northern Central railway, at York, and then officers were ordered to proceed to Washington by way of Philadelphia. On reaching Washington, the Surgeon General of the Army found Lieutenant Col. Watkins wholly unfit for duty in the field, and he was ordered to the command of a camp of paroled prisoners at that point. Capt. Peck and Spaulding proceeded to rejoin the regiment at Washington, Md., having been detained at Baltimore until after the Gettysburg battle. When Capt. Peck found his company, it had two men fit for duty; the whole regiment had but forty eight men and officers under command of Captain Chas. Mercur. Twenty-four out of twenty-seven men of Capt. Peck's company had been either killed or wounded at the Gettysburg fight. At Gettysburg Maj. I. Spaulding was killed.



## CONVALESCENCE AND RETURN TO THE REGIMENT.

During his absence Lieutenant Col. Watkins was offered the position of Paymaster in the army, obtained for him by his friends and without any intervention of his own. This appointment he declined; and on the 5th of November, 1863, having meantime been for a time in command of the parol camp near Washington, Lieutenant Col. Watkins returned to his regiment.

About the 6th of November the regiment being in the vicinity of Manassas Junction, a movement against the enemy at Brandy Station was ordered. The regiment in Madill's brigade was ordered to Kelly's Fort, which was held by the enemy and protected by earth-works. On the 7th after shelling the enemy's position, the brigade was ordered to charge across the river and attack the enemy's works. This movement was promptly and efficiently executed, and the hostile works captured.

The regiment then went into winter quarters at Brandy Station, on the Orange and Alexandria road between the North fork of the Rappahannock and the Rapidan.

Towards the last of November, Gen. Meade having ordered a general advance, the Army crossed the Rappahannock. On the 29th Gen. French in command of the Division acting in the advance, struck the enemy with his 3d brigade at Morris farm on Locust Grove. In the engagement which ensued the 3d brigade was severely handled, and the first brigade, Madill's, was ordered to its support. The first brigade drove the enemy and captured his position. In this fight Lieut. Van Anken was killed.

In this engagement, which was a fight exclusively by French's Division, as Birney rode along the front of the first brigade previous to the charge, the Corps set up a cheer, and advanced, capturing the enemy's position who abandoned it at the first valley.

The movements above recorded were the result of Lee's flank movement, after Gettysburg, which compelled Meade to fall back from the

Rapidan. The above mentioned movements, including the fight at Kelly's Fort and the advance on Brandy Station, were made by Meade to regain lost ground.

On the first of December the army advanced, and took up a position at Mine Run. The 141st regiment held a position opposite the enemy's centre. The regiment had been engaged in heavy skirmishing when Hancock with the 2d Corps was ordered to feel of the enemy's position with a view to an assault. Finding the enemy's position too strong for an assault, the attack was abandoned, and the army retired to its old position at Brandy Station.

On the 23d of March, 1864, upon the reorganization of the Army of the Potomac under Grant and Meade, the 141st regiment was placed in the 2d Corps, Gen. W. S. Hancock, Third Division, Major Gen. David B. Birney, first brigade, Brig Gen. I. H. H. Ward. Birney was afterward assigned to Hancock's right wing, when the Division came under Gen. Gershum G. Mott, and the brigade after the battle of the Wilderness under command of Gen. H. J. Madill, the command of the regiment devolving upon Lieutenant Col. Watkins. During the Wilderness campaign he continued in command throughout.

## THE WILDERNESS CAMPAIGN.

On the 2nd of May, 1864, the order for the advance movement of the Army of the Potomac was issued. The Army of Northern Virginia lay along its intrenchments on the Rapidan from Bartlett's Ford to the vicinity of Morton's Ford—a distance of 18 or 20 miles. The Wilderness lay on its right flank, not far from its return intrenchment extended up Mine Run to its source, near Antioch Meeting House, south of the plank road moving from Orange Court House to Fredericksburg. Lee's head quarters were at Orange Court House about 70 miles from Richmond. The plan of the movement of the Army of the Potomac, which began on the 4th of May was "to turn Lee's right, moving by the Catharpin and Pamunkey roads, out of the Wilderness and beyond the Rapidan before a general engagement could take place."





On the 3d of May the 2d Corps preceded by Grey's Cavalry Division, crossed the Rapidan at Ely's Ford on canvas and wooden pontoon bridges, and moved to Chancellorsville followed by the reserve artillery. The head of the 2d Corps reached Chancellorsville at 10 a. m. on the 4th of May. Here it halted for the night to permit the passing of the train across the fords in its rear. Here, says Bates's history, "the 141st regiment went into position near the old battle ground, the men meantime visiting the graves of their former comrades."

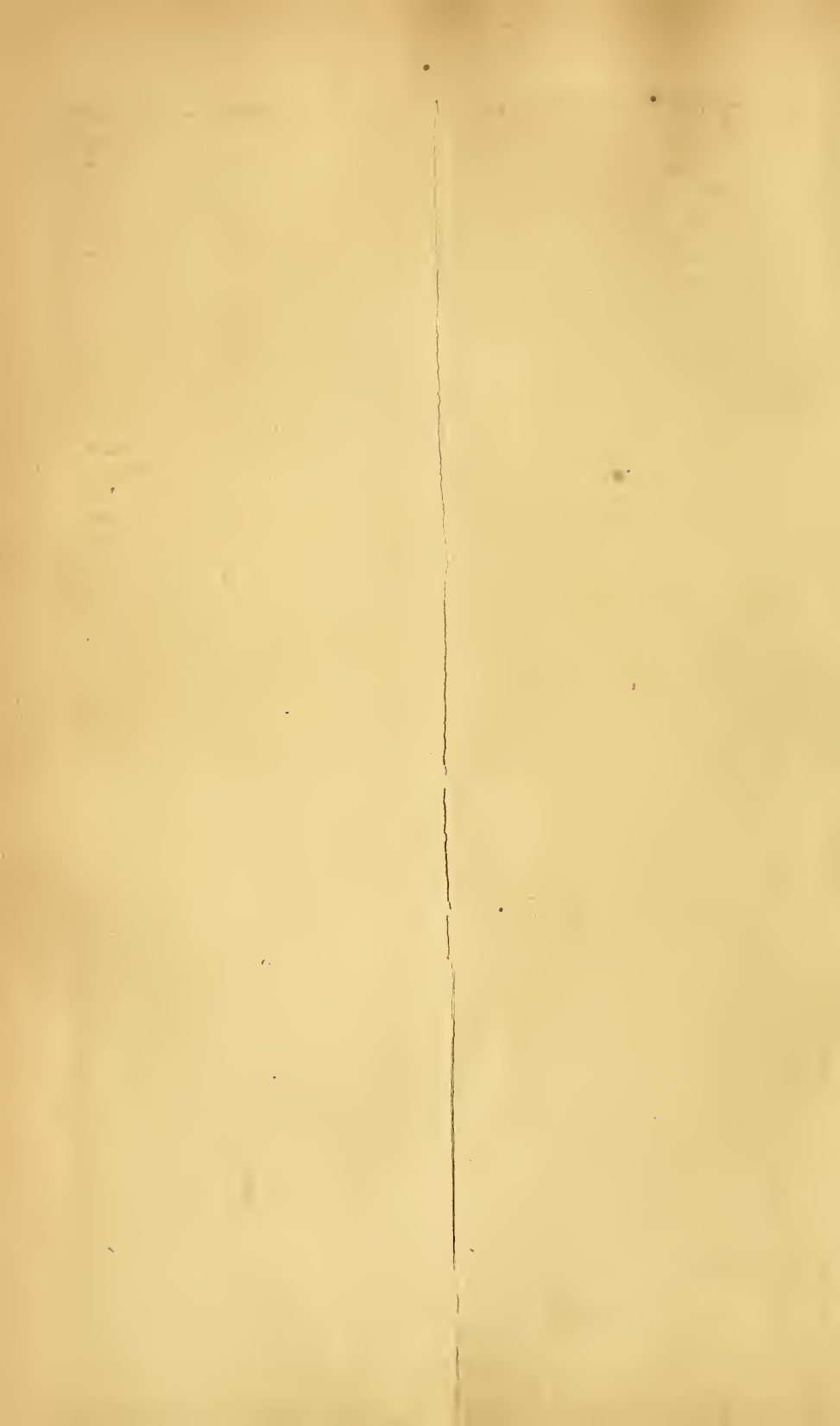
At this point the order reached Hancock to move the following morning to Shady Grove Church on Catharpin road, and extend his right towards the Fifth Corps at Parker's store. At 7:30 a. m. a dispatch was sent to Hancock informing him that the enemy was on the pike in some force, about two miles from the Williams tavern, and directing him to halt at Todd's tavern until farther developments. This dispatch reached Hancock at 6 o'clock, at which time his advance was two miles beyond Todd's tavern on the road to Shady Grove Church. Between 9 and 10 o'clock the development of the enemy's ford was such that a dispatch was sent Gen. Hancock from Grant, and Meade (who were near the Williams tavern) directing him to move up the Brock road to the Orange Court House plank road, and be prepared to move out that road toward Parker's store.

The Brock road begins at the Orange pike about a mile east of the Old Wilderness tavern, and was in a south-easterly direction to Spottsylvania Court House, intersecting the Germania plank road and Orange plank road, the Furnace and Catharpin and other roads moving in a southerly and south-easterly direction. Getty of the Sixth Corps had arrived at the crossing of the Brock and Orange road about 11 o'clock and threw out his skirmish line across the Orange plank road. Finding the enemy in force, it was deemed best to await the arrival of part of the Second Corps before attacking, and while waiting Getty slightly intrenched.

As soon as Hancock received the dispatch directing him to move his command up the Brock road, to its intersection with the Orange Court House plank road (about 11 a. m.) he at once set his Corps in motion toward that point, and riding in advance of his Corps, met Gen. Getty at the intersection of the two roads—his division in line of battle along the Brock road. At 2 p. m. the head of Hancock's command, Birney's Division arrived and was found on Getty's left in two lines of battle along the Brock road. Mott's and Gibbon's Division coming up rapidly took their positions on Birney's left in the same formation. The artillery was placed in position and the division commanders directed to throw up breast works of logs and dirt; upon going into position, a work which was accomplished without delay, the line beginning at Getty's left and extending along the whole position occupied by the Corps. The second line also threw up breast-works and a third line was subsequently constructed in the rear of the third and fourth Divisions. Two Divisions of Hill's Corps were in Gettysburg.

At quarter past four Getty in compliance with orders from Meade advanced to the attack through a thick undergrowth, and some four or five hundred yards from the Brock road became hotly engaged with Heth's Division part of which was lying down behind the crest of a small elevation. Finding Getty had met the enemy in force Hancock ordered Gen. Birney to advance his command, his own Division and Mott's, to support Getty, although the formation he had ordered before, had not yet been completed. Birney moved forward his own Division and Mott's on the left of Getty, with a section of artillery on the plank road.

Hancock in his report says the fight became very fierce at once "the line of battle exceedingly close, the musketry continuous and deadly along the whole line." The battle continued with great severity until near eight o'clock "when darkness and the dense forest put an end to it, fortunately for Hill whose troops were shattered and his lines disjoint



ed. An hour more of daylight and he would have been driven from the field, for Longstreet and Anderson were many miles distant.

As soon as the firing ceased on the evening of the 5th, Hancock, Warren and Sedgwick were ordered to attack punctually at five o'clock the next morning. Hill's troops intrenched during the night, and on the morning of the 6th Hancock's troops found an earthwork three or four hundred yards back of the Confederate long intrenchment. Punctually at five the attack began. Wright and Warren were repulsed. Birney was put in command of Hancock's right wing (his left, meanwhile threatened by Longstreet's corps). Birney's command comprised his own, Mott's and Getty's divisions.

At five o'clock Birney advanced along the plank road, his own and Mott's divisions in the front line, Getty's in the second supported by Carroll's, and Owen's brigades of Gibbon's division. Wadsworth's command advanced at the same time on the right of Birney. "All attacked with great vigor, and after a desperate contest the enemy's line was broken at all points, and he was driven in confusion through the forest, suffering severe loss in killed, wounded and missing."

As Hill gave way Longstreet came up on Birney's left, advanced a mile through the forest, attacked with Kershaw's division, and forced Birney's left back as far as his centre. At this juncture Field's division of Longstreet's corps became hotly engaged with Birney's right. It became necessary to readjust the line of battle. Webb's brigade was ordered to Birney, and Getty's division was withdrawn to the Brock road. At seven o'clock A. M. Hancock ordered Gibbon, commanding his left wing, to attack the enemy's right and connect with Mott. This order was only partially carried into effect.

At 8:30 o'clock A. M., Birney, Mott and Wadsworth resumed their attack along the plank road, with Gibbon's division, and became furiously engaged with the enemy. While this was going on on the right

Hancock was attacked on the left flank at Trigg's. About half-past nine Cutler's brigade was driven back, and Birney with two brigades was sent to re-establish the line. "Toward ten Hancock's front died away," his attack not having been reinforced as he had been planned by Burnside. Burnside's attack in support had not diverted Longstreet as had been intended."

Ward's brigade had been pushed forward within a mile of the Confederate commissary, and found itself without another round of ammunition. Details were made to take ammunition from the dead; and every effort was made to hold the ground so violently won, but in vain, the lack of ammunition and support neutralized all that had been accomplished. After an ineffectual resistance the corps was withdrawn to the breastworks on the Brock road; the command reformed in two lines of battle, from which it advanced in the morning to renew the attack. The battle raged at intervals during the entire day.

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# Bradford Reporter.

Towanda, Pa., Jan. 31, 1884.

## A Citizen-Soldier's Record.

Biographical Sketch and Military Record of Lieutenant-Colonel Guy Hulett Watkins, of the One Hundred and Forty-First Regiment, Penna. Volunteers.

### II.

#### SPOTTSYLVANIA COURT HOUSE.

On the 7th of May Hancock moved by a night march to Todd's tavern, continuing the movement to the left of Lee's position. Troops in his front impeded Hancock's movement until daylight, and he reached Todd's tavern, at the juncture of the Brock road and the Catharpin road, about nine o'clock in the morning. Here the Second Corps went into position and intrenched, after a skirmish with the enemy's cavalry. On the 9th the Second Corps took up a position overlooking the Po and Shady Grove road; and Mott's division was sent to the left of Wright's, the Sixth Corps, investing the enemy intrenched in front of Spottsylvania Court House. On the 10th the Fifth and Sixth Corps were pushed forward to develop the position and character of the enemy's works. Mott's division attached to the Sixth Corps was held in reserve to be sent to Burside's Ninth Corps, "upon hearing heavy firing in that direction." But at a quarter before four on the same day, Mott and Wright, with his Sixth Corps were ordered to attack the enemy's works immediately. Mott, then under Wright, received the order for this attack at 2 p. m., having moved to the open ground at the Brown house directly in front of the angle of the enemy's works to the south—three-quarters of a mile from what is called the apex of the salient. Open ground connected Brown's farm with Landron's, on the south end of which lay the "apex of the salient." There were woods on each side of the open, connecting space that came to within four or five hundred yards of the apex

Mott's assault was to take place at 5 p. m. The works in front had abbatiss and were well traversed and supplied with artillery. The attack met a furious enflading fire and fell back in confusion. This assault had been prepared in full view of the enemy, who had made every preparation to meet it. Mott failed to connect with Upton on his left, who, forming his attack, which was to have been made simultaneously with Mott, under cover of the woods took the enemy partially by surprise, and made a lodgement in his works, from which, after his attention was diverted from Mott, the enemy drove Upton back.

Mott's division remained under Wright at the Brown house and in that vicinity for two days. On the 12th the rest of Hancock's Corps arrived, half an hour after midnight at the Brown house in a heavy rain. The troops in front were immediately formed for an attack: Birney's division deployed on Barlow's right; Mott in Birney's rear, one line. At 4:35 the order to advance was given, the attack having been postponed on account of a heavy fog. The attack proved entirely successful, the troops advancing with a cheer passed thro' the abbatiss and the intrenchments, capturing nearly 4,000 prisoners of Elwell's Corps, twenty pieces of artillery, several thousand stands of arms and upward of 30 colors. The number of the enemy slain, says Hancock, was unusually large, "most of them having been slain with the bayonet."

"In this fight," says an eye witness, "Lieutenant-Colonel Watkins, who led the regiment, witnessed a hand-to-hand fight with clubbed muskets between Sergeant Rought, of Tuscarora township, Company A., of the 141st, and a color sergeant of a Georgia regiment, in which the latter was slain and his colors captured—one of the few events of the kind known to have taken place in the whole war."

The Union forces, after the capture of the works in their front, pursued the enemy in the direction of Spottsylvania Court House, until they encountered a second formidable line of earthworks. Birney's and Mott's troops entered the captured works



(the interval between the attacking forces having been lost) just west of the east angle, extending from that point to the west angle and down the west face of the salient, encountering Terry's and Walker's (Stonewall brigade) on the apex of the salient, and Battle's brigade of Rhode's division on the west face. The two commands and McAllister's brigade of Mott's division appear to have entered the works at the same time.

Daniels and Ramseur's brigades of the Confederate forces immediately moved from their position in an inner line of the intrenchments to drive out Birney and Mott from their first line. They succeeded in dislodging the troops of Birney and Mott, who had entered the salient, and from that portion of its west face which had been captured. The outer face of the apex of the salient remained, however, in the possession of the captors. Daniels was killed and Ramseur severely wounded.

The contest for the re-possession of the captured works continued incessantly all day along the whole line from the right of the Sixth Corps to the left of the Second. Occasionally changes of troops were made to replenish ammunition. A participant, Gen. Grant, of the Vermont brigade of the Second division, Sixth Corps, says: "It was not only a desperate struggle, but it was literally a hand-to-hand fight. \* \* It was there ["near the apex of the salient"] that the somewhat celebrated tree was cut off by bullets; there that the brush and logs were cut to pieces and whipped into basket stuff; there that the rebel ditches and cross-sections were filled with dead men several feet deep. \* \* I was at the angle next day. The sight was terrible and sickening—much worse than the "bloody lane" (Antietam). \* \* they were filled up several feet deep." This is the famous "bloody angle" of Spottsylvania Court House—at which the 141st, led by the gallant Watkins, charged.

Gen. McGowan, of Wilcox's division of Hills' (Confederate) Corps, says of this feature of the battle: "The trenches on the right of the bloody angle had to be cleared of the dead more than once. An oak

twenty-two inches in diameter cut down by musket balls and about twelve o'clock on Thursday night, injuring several men in First South Carolina regiment." A tree was afterwards exhibited at the Centennial Exhibition. The Confederate losses in this battle (of 12th) were between nine and ten thousand, officers and enlisted men—killed, wounded and prisoners. The total Union loss is set down at 5,233. On the 13th of May, "owing to losses of men and expiration of terms of service of many regiments in Mott's division (the Fourth, of Hancock's Corps), it had become so reduced in numbers that it was consolidated in a brigade" (under Gen. H. J. Manton), and assigned to Birney's division.

#### SEQUENT MOVEMENTS OF THE SECOND CORPS.

On the 15th of May Hancock (in continuance of the movement on the left) moved part of his command to the Spottsylvania and Fredericksburg road—leaving Birney's division to cover Burnside's right flank. On the 18th the Union forces were again in position of attack upon the Confederate left, at the new entrenchments near the works captured on the 12th. At four a. m., two divisions of the second corps moved forward to the assault—Birney and Tyler being held in reserve. The attack was repulsed.

During the night of the 18th Birney's division moved to the vicinity of Anderson's mill on the east side of the Ny river below the left of the Sixth Corps. On the afternoon of the 19th an encounter took place near Harris house on the east side of the Ny on the right flank held by Tyler's division and Kitching's brigade. Hancock was requested to reinforce the position held by the latter. He ordered up Birney's division at the double-quick, directing Barlow and Gibbon to be ready to follow, and, going on the ground, found Tyler's brigade "fiercely engaged" with the enemy on his front on the Fredericksburg road. As soon as Birney's troops arrived two of his brigades were thrown into action on Tyler's right. The fighting continued obstinately until about





nine o'clock p. m., when reinforcements to the Union forces having arrived, the enemy retreated rapidly across the Ny. On the 20th Birney's division having been relieved, was with Tyler's and the two other divisions of the Second Corps at Anderson's or Clark's mill.

The operations above detailed, (in which the Second Corps, with Birney's division, are especially noted), says Gen. A. A. Humphrey's in his *The Virginia Campaigns of 1864 and 1865*—"shows in what manner the contest between the two armies was carried on. The marching was done chiefly at night, and the contact was so close, as to require constant vigilance day and night, and allow little time for sleep. The firing was incessant. The fatigue, the loss of sleep, the watchfulness taxed severely the powers of endurance of both officers and men. \* \* From the 5th of May, 1864, to the 9th of April, 1865, these armies were in constant close contact, with rare intervals of brief, comparative repose."

#### MOVEMENT TO THE NORTH ANNA RIVER.

On the 20th of May Hancock was directed by General Meade to move, as soon after dark as practicable, by way of Guinea Station and Bowling Green to Milford Station, about 20 miles distant, "by a route named;" and take a position on the right bank of the Mattaponi—"attacking the enemy wherever found." This movement was made to divert Lee's attention, bring on an attack, and a diversion of Lee's forces from Meade's front: "should Lee not attack, then the movement was to be a turning or flank operation."

Hancock moved on the night of the 20th, and arrived at Guinea Station, eight miles on the way, at break of day on the 21st. At Guinea Station, Hancock experienced some little opposition. At Milford Station his cavalry came upon Kemper's brigade entrenched, and drove him out of his works. Hancock remained at Milford Station during the 22d. At 11 a. m., on the 23d he was at Old Chesterfield (about four miles from the North Anna at the railroad and telegraph bridges)—his first division, Barlow's, massed at Old Chesterfield

and the rest coming up. On the arrival of the remaining divisions, Hancock took a position on the north bank about a mile from the river, his right across the telegraph road, his left across the road—Birney being on the right of the line. The enemy had artillery and infantry intrenchments on the north and south side of the river.

After examining these works, Birney was of the opinion they could be taken; and about six o'clock on the 23d, Hancock directed him to make the attempt. The 141st regiment was deployed as skirmishers in front of the redan on the north bank of the river; and two brigades of Birney's division, Pierce's and Egan's, ("advancing several hundred yards over open ground, ascending the river bank under artillery and infantry fire, which they did in the most spirited manner"—carried the works in front "capturing some of the enemy—the rest being driven over the river." Bates's history says "the colors of the 141st were the first that were planted on the hostile works."

On the 24th the enemy abandoned his works on the south side of the river, and Hancock crossed and occupied them. The Second Corps then advanced, and entrenched within six or eight hundred yards of the enemy's second line. On the evening of the 26th, the withdrawal of the Army of the Potomac to the north bank of the North Anna began; and by three o'clock on the morning of the 27th it was completed. On the afternoon of the 27th the Second and Sixth Corps were directed to cross the Pamunkey at Huntley's ford, four miles from Hanover town.

About two miles below Hanover town Totopotomoy Creek, after a course nearly due east of twelve miles enters the Pamunkey. Lee's army was centered at Hanover Junction on the North Anna. From Hanover Junction several roads lead to the points where the different corps of the Army of the Potomac were to cross the Pamunkey, and the roads to which it would advance after crossing.

On the 28th the Second Corps, not long after mid-day was in position (with the Sixth) across the Hanover



Court House or river road at Crump's Creek, forming on the left of the Sixth Corps, and completing the cover from Crump's Creek to Hawes's Shop. Hanover Court House road is the shortest road to the Pamunkey from Hanover Junction, the head-centre of Lee's army.

On the 29th the Second Corps (with the Sixth and Fifth Corps) were directed to make a reconnaissance in force in front—Hancock on the roads from Hawes's Shop to Atlee's and Richmond. His leading division, Barlow's, met only the enemy's videttes, until it arrived at the crossing of

#### THE TOTOPOTGMOY

by the Richmond road, when the enemy was found in force entrenched on the south side, and a brisk skirmish ensued. Birney and Gibbon were ordered up, the former on Barlow's right, the latter moving (on the morning of the 30th) on Barlow's left and on the left of the Richmond road. The forces opposing were the left of Early's Corps, Breckenridge's command and Hill's Corps, the Confederate left. The whole of Lee's army was entrenched close at hand.

Skirmishing was incessant during the 30th, and artillery was put in position by Hancock which silenced the enemy's fire—Hancock capturing most of the enemy's strongly entrenched skirmish line. Attacks having been made elsewhere upon our lines, Hancock was directed to make the attack as soon as he could find a suitable place. He received the dispatch a little after seven P. M. of the 30th. Barlow carried the advanced line of the enemy's rifle pits; and at 7:40 Meade ordered the attack to cease.

On the afternoon of June 1st, Hancock was ordered to withdraw from his position, and make an effort to reach

#### COLD HARBOR,

where the roads from Bethesda Church, old Church, White House, and from New Bridge concentrate, and directly or indirectly, from all the bridges across the Chickahominy, and above New Bridge, and where the cavalry commands of Smith and

Wright had already been engaged. Hancock was to endeavor to reinforce Wright's, the Sixth Corps', left. After a most fatiguing night's march in the heat and dust, Hancock reached Cold Harbor at half past six on the 2d of June, with the head of his column, but in such an exhausted condition that the attack contemplated on the enemy's front was postponed until five in the afternoon. At 7:30 a.m., the Second Corps was placed in position on Wright's left. The Division of Birney went to Smith's command on the right of the line, holding the road to Bethesda Church, until afternoon. The attack was finally postponed until the morning after the 3d, and the Corps commanders were ordered to make all the required preparations.

In front of the Second Corps were Heth and Breckinridge and part of Hoke's division. The attack of the Second Corps on the morning of the 3d of June was made with Barlow's division on the left, Gibbons division on the right, Birney supporting. The assault, which was most gallantly made, was repulsed with great loss in officers and men. The attack from other quarters were suspended during the day; and Birney's division was sent to the left of Warren's Fifth Corps. The order suspending further attacks was received by the time Birney was in position.

The condition of the Army of the Potomac is reported by General Humphreys at this junction to be extremely sickly, and terrible epidemics were threatened by reason of the swampy nature of the country, and the low malarial lands through which its operations had been conducted, the incessant fighting and marching for over a month previous, and the inadequate condition of the commissariat.

On the 7th a flag of truce was arranged to bury the dead. Many of the wounded had died from exposure, the proposition for a truce not having acceded to by Lee from the 5th to the 7th. On the 5th Birney returned to the Second Corps, and extended its left to the Chickahominy. Two attacks of Lee were repulsed on the 6th and 7th; and the battles of Totopotomoy and Cold Harbor were over.





MOVEMENT TO THE SOUTH SIDE OF  
THE JAMES.

The movement of the Army of the Potomac to invest Petersburg, began on the 13th of June, the Second Corps crossing the Chickahominy at Jones's Bridge, and reaching the vicinity of Wilcox's Landing on the James about half past five on the afternoon of that day. On the 14th the Second Corps began crossing the James on boats from Wilcox's Landing to Windmill Point, and by four o'clock on the morning of the 15th all the infantry and four batteries of artillery had landed on the south bank. At half past ten on the morning of the 15th the Second Corps took up its march, according to previously received orders, "by most direct route," to Petersburg. While on the march on the afternoon of the 15th, about a mile from Old Court House, and about four miles from the left of Smith's line, then investing Petersburg, Hancock received a dispatch to hurry Howard's troops to reinforce the investing forces. Smith with the Eighteenth Corps had attacked the enemy's entrenchments, and captured about a mile and a half of the line, with a quantity of his artillery.

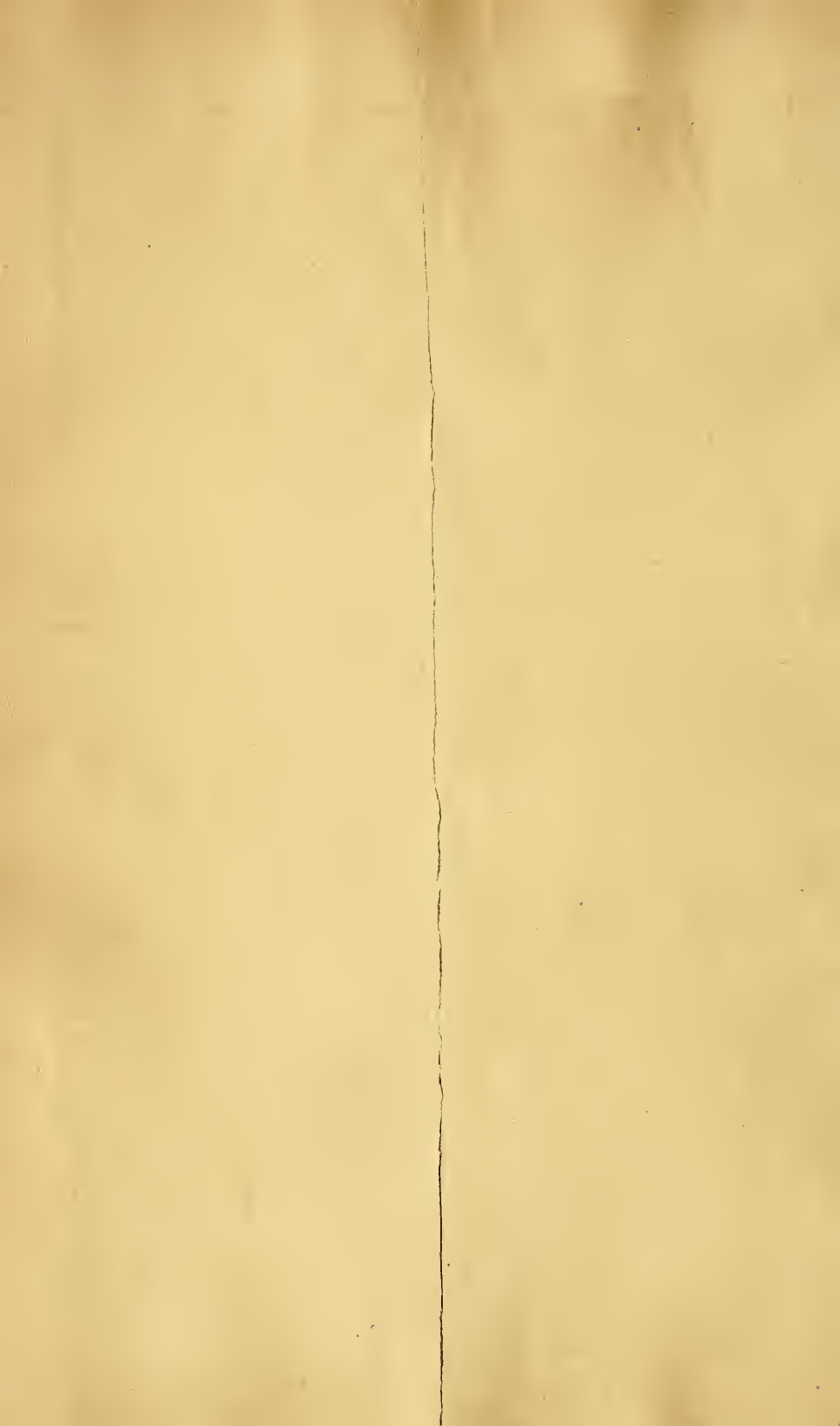
The head of Birney's division was just passing a country road that led directly to Petersburg when this dispatch was received, and was at once turned in that direction, Gibbon's division following, an order being sent to Gen. Barlow to march toward the same point from Old Court House, on the road to which he was moving. When Hancock reached Smith's lines he relieved Smith in the outer works which had been captured by the latter. Here the 141st regiment bivouacked with its brigade now under Madill. The enemy soon after planted a battery in an angle of his former line and swept the position of the regiment with shrapnel. The brigade, however, held its ground until Egan captured the position of the enemy from whence the firing proceeded.

The head of Birney's division had arrived at Bryant House a mile in the rear of Hinks's position (of Smith's force) on the evening of

the 15th. By 11 o'clock Hancock's advanced force had relieved Hinks's in the enemy's captured entrenchments. On the morning of the 16th Hancock made a reconnoissance in his front, during which Egan's brigade carried a redoubt on Birney's left (Redan 12.) from which the fire on Madill's brigade had proceeded. At 6 p. m. an attack was ordered along Hancock's whole front. The Second Corps supported by two brigades of the Eighteenth on the right, and the Ninth on the left, made a spirited assault on and captured Redan. No. 4, on the right and Nos. 13 and 14 on the left, "together with their connecting lines, driving back the enemy along the whole line." The attacking force suffered severely. The heavy fighting closed at dark, but several vigorous attempts were made by the enemy during the night to retake their ground.

After midnight on the 17th the enemy withdrew from the position he was holding "across the ravine five hundred yards in his rear, where his line of battle would be shortened and the position would be advantageous." Late at night on the 17th Gen. Meade ordered an assault in strong columns well supported upon the enemy's works at 4 o'clock on the following morning by the Fifth, Ninth and Second Corps. "Upon advancing to the assault on the morning of the 18th, it was found that the enemy had abandoned the intrenchments he had so successfully held the day before. The ground in front of the points assailed was thickly covered with the killed and the trenches at those points were filled with Confederate dead."

On this day Birney was placed temporarily in command of the Second Corps, Hancock having become disabled by the opening of an old wound on the evening of the 17th. The Second Corps found it close to the enemy's new entrenchments, at the Hare house near which were the enemy's new and abandoned lines some three hundred yards distant. "Its advance was in great part concealed by woods."



The Hare house stood between the enemy's new and abandoned lines. "On the 18th," Capt B. M. Peck relates, "orders were received by the brigade commander to advance our brigade and take possession of the enemy's works in front which had been reported to have been abandoned. It was also reported that the Ninth Corps had flanked the enemy's line on our left, compelling him to abandon his works. At daylight, accordingly, on the 18th, Lieutenant Col. Watkins ordered three companies of the 141st—A, B and I—to deploy as skirmishers, in front of the brigade, and advance across the ravine in their front. This movement was duly executed; the enemy's skirmishers were driven from the works which they had before held in force; and this advance was the first to enter and take possession of the enemy's abandoned line." The skirmish line continued under command of Capt. Peck, to press forward, driving the enemy's skirmish line back into his new line of works. The attacking force advanced so close to the enemy's new line that it was unable to retire for two days, and lay close up to the enemy's works, during this time and until it retired on the 20th to the position held by the brigade.

The Ninth Corps on the left of the Second was nearly a mile in its rear; the Fifth on the left of the Ninth, still farther in the rear. Meade ordered a simultaneous attack at 12 o'clock (on the 18th). Birney carried out this order, making two assaults about mid-day with Gibbon's division on the right of the Prince George Court House road, both of which were repulsed with severe loss.

Later in the day Meade ordered an assault "by all the corps with their whole force at all hazards." All the corps assaulted late in the afternoon, and at hours not widely apart. General Birney with all his disposable force; Mott from the Hare house, on the left of the Prince George's Court House road supported one of Gibbon's brigades; Barlow on Mott's left; "but," says the brief outline we are following "the attack was repulsed with considerable loss."

Of this attack a cotemporary newspaper accounts says: "The troops

moved forward in two columns, Col. Madill's brigade leading one column; and Col. Champlain's that of the other. Shortly after four o'clock p. m., three imposing columns moved forward and in a moment they were moving in splendid style toward a strong rebel line of breastworks strongly defended by infantry and artillery. These immediately opened a terrible fire and the heads of the columns were lost in smoke—lost in the very jaws of death. The battery was so close, the fire so strong as well as sudden, and the men fell so fast, that those in front were soon cut down or scattered, others instinctively seeking shelter, which some neighboring buildings afforded, broke from the columns throwing them into considerable confusion. The troops were then wisely withdrawn as further sacrifices of human life would, under the circumstances be criminal."

#### LIEUTENANT COL. WATKINS MORTALLY WOUNDED.

It was in this awful experiment that the heroic Watkins fell. The brigade commander and late Colonel of the war-worn 141st relates the immediate incidents of his death: On the afternoon of the 18th, Lieutenant Col. Watkins, and the brigade commander, Gen. H. J. Madill, were seated under a small cedar tree discussing the impregnable character of the enemy's works in front, which was between six and seven feet high and from twelve to fourteen feet in depth—an admirable military construction throughout. While seated thus an orderly came up and delivered an order to the brigade commander, to form his brigade at the Hare house, and assault the enemy's works in front. Gen. Madill handed the order to Lieutenant Col. Watkins, without a word; the latter read it; his head dropped for a moment on his breast. It was his death warrant. Without uttering a reply Lieutenant Col. Watkins started to form his regiment. Gen. Madill proceeded to Gen. Mott and represented the futility of attempting the attack. The division commander denied all responsibility for the order. In accordance with it, the brigade was formed in a ravine or





hollow behind a battery at the right of the Hare house. It was composed of the 105th, 63d, 57th, 114th and 141st Penna. regiments. The disposition for the assault was made about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The rebel works was not more than twenty rods distant from the point where the brigade was formed, the ground in front, as stated, being broken between the positions of the opposing forces. The battery opened fire for about ten minutes, when the command to advance was given. The brigade advanced in column regiments. The enemy opened a terrific fire of artillery and musketry. As the troops advanced they were mowed down like grass before a scythe and the attack repulsed.

As the brigade came over the brow of the depression advancing to the assault, at the double-quick, and just as he passed the place where the brigade commander was standing near the battery, Lieutenant Col. Watkins fell shot through the bowels with a Minie ball. The General commanding seeing him fall, ordered Capt. Atkinson of Co. G. of Wayne county, and two other soldiers to carry the wounded officer to the rear. He was removed on a stretcher, and set down near the division flag pole. He was suffering intense agony. Morphine was administered in large doses, with apparently no effect. He died in the midst of his weeping comrades about two hours after receiving the fatal wound, his head lying in the lap of Capt. Tyler, of Co. H. His last words were a message of hope and endearment to his wife and mother. He had upon his person (which he always carried) a copy of the Scriptures. His remains were embalmed, and sent home for interment in charge of Capt. J. W. Mason, of the 5th U. S. Cavalry; and Capt. A. G. Mason, of Gen. Meade's staff—his brothers-in-law. His remains were interred in the cemetery of his native town where they rest under a beautiful monument erected by the friends to whom he was so tenderly attached. The Post of the Grand Army of the Republic of his native place is named in his honor.

Why pause before we bring this memorial one of the noblest of his kind to its close to utter words of praise or sorrow? Is there not honor in the deeds he did, the valor, the high sense of patriotic duty, the manly and heroic virtue that brought him, alas, in prime of manhood to an untimely death?

Oh, if there be on this earthly sphere  
A boon, an offering heaven holds dear—  
'Tis the last libation that liberty draws  
From the heart that bleeds and breaks in her cause.

He had a serious and sentimental nature in him, and, like all such men, a healthy, manly laughter in him too; his laughter and his tears were of the alert and active sympathies of his soul. Think of him with the wound of Chancellorsville enduring the terrible marches, and battles of the Wilderness, at the "bloody angle" of Spottsylvania Court House, in the swamps of the Chickahominy, in the battles of the North Anna—and then picture him dead in front of the murderous redoubt of Petersburg!

We have, (with such material as was at hand) given the record of the gallant and war-worn regiment that he led, the divisions, brigades, and corps in which it fought. Its glory was his; its memory (not even concluded with his death) is forever embalmed in the life that he laid down. No nobler sacrifice was ever laid upon the altar of a nation's life than his.

HENRY WARD.

#### Battles of the 141st.

With this issue we close the biographical sketch of Lieutenant Colonel Guy H. Watkins, and a brief account of the 141st. The interest felt in this limited history of a regiment which did as hard and brave fighting as any marching under the flag, has induced us to go to further expense and secure what shall be a complete history of the regiment from its first battle at Fredericksburg where the boys looked down upon the fearful carnage they were to enter, to the last fight at Lee's surrender. The articles will appear under the appropriate title, "Battles of the 141st," and will give a clear account of each fight, with those who fell, and will be replete with personal incidents, short biographies and historic



remarks. The history will be prepared by Rev. David Craft, of Wyalusing, which is a guarantee for its thoroughness and correctness. It will be complete, and no one who knows the scenes through which the 141st passed can deny its interest or value to Bradford County readers. There are few who did not lose relatives or friends in that brave old regiment, and all will find the accounts of the battles full of instruction and entertainment. At Gettysburg, when the 141st stood at the very angle of the enemy's attack and lost every commissioned officer but one and about three-fourths of the men in killed and wounded, and at the scores of other places where the fighting regiment was in the very front of the battle, were scenes deserving better record that they have ever received. The regiment was the pride of the county, and every one has a personal interest in its achievements. The publication will begin as soon as the materials can be gathered, which will be in a few weeks.

#### A Correction.

SIRS:—Will you please allow me to make a few corrections in the history of the 141st Regiment. The first will be at the battle of Fredericksburg. The battle was on Saturday, the 13th, as stated. The next day the regiment kept its position in support of battery the same as on Saturday. Monday morning, about four or five o'clock, two hundred men out of the regiment went out on picket duty, Major I. P. Spaulding commanding. We had been on the line but a short time when there came what I call the horrors of war, that is, wounded Union soldiers inside of the rebel lines, who had lain there from Saturday until that time. They were calling for God's sake to give them a drink of water, and if they would not to kill them and put them out of their misery. In the morning of that day our men went with a flag of truce to try to get our wounded, but the rebels would not accept it. In the afternoon they let them have one hour to get the dead and wounded off. They got all the wounded and most all of the dead. We held that line until the army retreated across the river. We left the line on the morning of the 16th, and crossed the river before daylight, one day later than you have it print.

The next error is the Burnside stick in the mud, which was in January, 1863, in place of December, 1862. We broke camp on January 20, 1863, and marched to near Banks' Fork. That night it rained and next morning it was a sea of mud. Some of our boys went down to the river bank and the rebel had a board stuck up with large letters painted on it "Burnside stuck in the mud." There was no bridge laid there that time.

The next error is at the time the regiment broke camp for Chancellorsville. We went down the river on the north side below Fredericksburg on April 29th; the next morning, May 1st, crossed the river and went to Chancellorsville. That was the day that Birney's Division went to support Howard, and not on the second as stated. We came back and our brigade went out to support a battery, and that was where Colonel Watkins had his horse killed by a shell. That shell killed and wounded men in four different regiments. We held that ground until morning, and when our batteries shelled Jackson that day we went with Birney to the Furnace. The way it reads in the paper it has Birney's division at the Furnace, and supporting Howard at the same time.

Respectfully yours,

RICHARD McCABE,

Member of Company I, 141st P. V.  
North Rome, January 26, 1884.











